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Mr. Gowers,

I am appealing to the EPA to recommend a complete clean-up and reclamation of the Ringwood Mines/Landfill Site---including Peters Mine, O'Connor Landfill, Cannon Mine and any and all other areas at the site that might be contaminated with toxic material. The reinvestigation has proven that Ford dumped sludge just about everywhere in Upper Ringwood.

As you are well aware the EPA failed to protect the people in Upper Ringwood by de-listing the site even though it was still contaminated with toxic sludge. Consequently, children have had to live on a toxic dumpsite for almost 50 years! The reason for this egregious decision was the power of Ford Motor Co., who insisted the site was clean, and the complete lack of support by Ringwood's local government for the Ramapough Community. A walk through the community with the residents at the time of de-listing would have revealed visible sludge.

I am sure you are also aware of the fact that the Ramapoughs have been neglected and discriminated against by their local government for years. This is still going on. At a special borough council meeting on May 10, borough professionals presented their opinions regarding the future of the site. I attended that meeting. The focus of the meeting was to scare the taxpayers of Ringwood about costs of a total clean up and the amount of truck traffic a total clean up would generate (trucks brought it in, trucks can take it out!). Basically, their reasoning was---the streams and groundwater show no contamination so it's best and to cap everything.

Shockingly, facts that were never mentioned at the special meeting were---the high levels of lead that is found in the soil at the site, that bedrock makes it extremely difficult to track the underground water and most importantly, that over 400 people live at the site. The Ringwood Council does not and will not have the best interest of the Upper Ringwood community in mind when they recommended a solution for the superfund site. This is why it is so important for the EPA to protect the community, who have nowhere else to turn for environmental justice.

Of course, Ford Motor Co., as the polluter, not Ringwood, should pay for the clean-up and site remediation. But, it is important to note that Ringwood does have \$87M in indemnification insurance, which they are tapping into to pay their professionals.

The Upper Ringwood community has been beaten down by broken promises and prejudice, they have virtually given up on the hope that the EPA will actually demand that Ford clean up the site---finally ridding their community of toxic chemicals. Please prove them wrong.

Once the land has been cleaned and reclaimed I think it should become an

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historic site----focusing on the Iron Mines and the Ramapough Indians. It could also chronicle the partnership that was finally forged between the Ramapoughs, the EPA and Ford, who worked together, bringing environmental justice to a minority community ravaged by living in and on a toxic dumpsite.

Wenke Taule

 Exemption 6

CAG member and former mayor of Ringwood